

Swedish-Swiss ABB Makes List of Green Giants by Acquiring US Companies

Green Tech Media has released its annual list of companies likely to make a difference in clean tech in the coming year. This year, Swedish-Swiss equipment manufacturer and grid builder ABB made the number two spot. Clean Tech Media says acquisitions of a number of US companies were critical in ABB's ranking, and that ABB "represents one of the best exit paths for startups in efficiency and grid equipment." ABB's purchases in the last year have included Baldor Electric for \$4.2 billion and virtual power plant developer Ventyx for \$1 billion. Most recently, ABB purchased controlling interest in Brookfield, Connecticut-based Validus DC Systems, a leading provider of direct current (DC) power infrastructure equipment for energy-intensive data centers.

IKEA Powers Up 2nd Largest Single-Roof Commercial Solar Energy System in California, 6th Largest in US

Swedish retailer IKEA flipped the switch on a newly constructed solar energy system at its southwestern US distribution center in Tejon, California. The 370,000-square-foot solar array consists of a 1.8 MW system designed and installed by California-based REC Solar, and built with 7,980 REC Group panels. The system will produce 2.88 million kWh of electric power annually, the equivalent of reducing 1,986 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂), eliminating the emissions of 389 cars, or powering 241 homes yearly. This installation represents the second-largest, single-roof commercial system in the state, and the sixth largest in the United States.

Sweden's Wind Power Grew 42% in 2010

Energy from wind power in Sweden increased at a record pace during 2010, 42% from 2009. The Swedish Energy Agency reports 308 new wind power turbines were installed, with a capacity of 574 MW, making a total of 1655 turbines, which generated 3.5 TWh. Although wind power accounted for only around 2.4% of electricity use in Sweden, the government is looking to wind to help make up for declining production from the hydro and nuclear plants that currently supply almost all Sweden's electricity.

BetaLED Lights the Tunnels of Stockholm and the Streets of Örn skjöldsvik

Profiling US cleantech companies through the League of Green Embassies is paying off. BetaLED, a division of Ruud Lighting of Racine, Wisconsin, installed its LED armatures along the perimeter of the US Embassy Stockholm compound in order to premiere the product for Swedish municipal officials working with US counterparts during the November 2010 European Green Capital Conference in Stockholm. By May 2011, BetaLED has secured a contract for LED tunnel lighting in the City of Stockholm, for Ruud Edge Tunnel armatures, the first of its kind with >200cd/m² luminance levels. During this same period, BetaLED also won the largest tender for LED street lights in Sweden, a contract for replacing street lighting fixtures in the municipality of Örn skjöldsvik in northern Sweden.

Sweden Takes Seat on Committee to Prepare Global Climate Fund

Sweden will take one of 40 seats on the committee preparing the Green Climate Fund, the result of a decision taken at the UN climate change conference in Cancún in December 2010. When operational in 2020, the fund will channel \$100 billion per year to climate measures around the world, making it the international community's largest ever initiative to combat climate change.

\$31.6 million for Swedish Research on Electrical Vehicles and Infrastructure

The Swedish Energy Agency has granted 200 million SEK (\$31.6 million) for a four-year research program on electrical vehicles and infrastructure to support introduction of all types of vehicles that need charging from the power grid. The grant is the result of a Swedish Government commissioned study that recommended larger demonstration investments to stimulate introduction of electrical vehicles on the Swedish market. Meanwhile, the City of Stockholm held a ceremony outside City Hall to unveil the first three electric vehicles it bought as a symbolic start for the program by Stockholm and a number of Swedish municipalities to purchase nearly 6000 electric cars. Although the three cars purchased were Mitsubishi i-MiEVs, US companies are competing for these tenders.

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